



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2006

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WSDOT Seeks Comments on DBE Contracting Goal

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is seeking comments on the agency's proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal. Goals are established in an effort to create a "level playing field" for DBEs seeking to participate in WSDOT's federally assisted highway and transit-related projects.

A DBE goal represents a percentage of the value of work for which disadvantaged, minority, and women business enterprises should participate in a federally funded transportation project. The proposed goal was determined by following federal regulations and guidelines. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007, which begins October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007, WSDOT has proposed an overall DBE Participation Goal of 18.77% for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assisted projects.

WSDOT will consider all comments, as well as other material that is either quantitative or anecdotal, before submitting its final DBE goal to the FHWA. Written comments will be accepted from August 10, 2006 until September 25, 2006. Send comments to:

Eileen D. Oliver, DMWBE Program Supervisor
Washington State Department of Transportation
Office of Equal Opportunity
PO Box 47314,
Olympia, WA 98504-7314
Or email: olivere@wsdot.wa.gov.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) DBE Participation Goal is set biennially, therefore, the FFY 2007 FTA goal (set in FFY 2005) remains 0%.

No Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) DBE Participation Goal will be set for FFY 2007 as WSDOT does not anticipate any FAA funded projects exceeding \$250,000 being awarded during FFY 2007. Should there be a change in funding during FFY 2007, WSDOT will consider the establishment of a DBE goal.

The FFY 2007 proposed DBE goal for FHWA is available for review at all WSDOT region headquarters offices (<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/contact/officelocation.htm>) and the WSDOT headquarters: Transportation Building, 310 Maple Park Avenue SE, in Olympia. More information about the DBE goal setting process is available on WSDOT's Web page at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/oeo/>

WSDOT will announce the final DBE goal once approved.

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